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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-14.   (Cancelled).

15.   (Currently Amended) A method for remanufacturing cores into remanufactured items, comprising the steps of:

providing a total price for the remanufactured items, the total price including at least a refundable core deposit and a remanufactured item price, the core deposit being paid with the total price to secure return of cores for remanufacture;

having a plurality of remanufacturer liabilities associated with different deposits paid to secure return of cores at the time of sale of remanufactured items;

storing, in a memory device, data reflecting an earlier core liability and a later core liability, the earlier core liability corresponding to a core deposit paid upon sale of earlier-sold one of the remanufactured items, the later core liability corresponding to a core deposit paid upon sale of a later-sold one of the remanufactured items;

receiving a core associated with the sale of the later-sold remanufactured item;

inspecting the core associated with the sale of the later-sold remanufactured item;

determining [[the]] an amount of credit available for returning the core associated with the sale of the later-sold remanufactured item, the amount being based upon the inspection; and

selecting the oldest available liability against which to apply updating the data stored on the memory device by applying the credit for the core associated with the sale of the later-sold remanufactured item against the earlier core liability, irrespective of the core deposit for the later-sold remanufactured item having been paid after the sale of the earlier-sold remanufactured item; paid on sale of the item associated with the return of the core;

applying the credit against the selected liability to purchase the core;

purchasing the core based upon applying the core credit; and
remanufacturing the core

establishing an entitlement in the amount of each deposit paid to secure return of a core and having a date identifier; and

canceling the entitlement after return of core where the entitlement is the oldest available entitlement associated with the returned core;

where the step of selecting the liability is based upon an association of the liability and the entitlement.

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16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of determining the amount of core credit is from a choice of one of full credit equal to the core deposit paid upon sale of the later-sold remanufactured item, partial credit less than the core deposit paid upon sale of the later-sold remanufactured item, and zero credit.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising: establishing a core liability and a corresponding attrition date for a sale of a selected one of the remanufactured items, the attrition date being after a date on which the selected remanufactured item is sold; and

            eliminating the core liability for the selected remanufactured item on the attrition date when a core has not been returned for the selected remanufactured item by the attrition date; wherein the step of selecting the oldest available liability includes selecting from liabilities that have not been available beyond a certain attrition date.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising: establishing a partial credit date associated with the sale of the selected remanufactured item, the partial credit date being after the date on which the selected remanufactured item is sold and before the attrition date; and

            limiting the core liability for the selected remanufactured item to a value less than the corresponding core deposit if the core is returned on or after the partial credit date and before the attrition date wherein the step of applying the credit against the selected liability includes applying full credit against the selected liability where the core was reserved within a first time period ending prior to the attrition date and applying less than full credit where the core was reserved within a second time period of the attrition period.

20-23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory device comprising instructions for causing a computer to implement steps in a method for remanufacturing cores into remanufactured items, the method comprising:

            storing data reflecting an earlier core liability and a later core liability, the earlier core liability corresponding to a core deposit paid upon sale of an earlier-sold one of the remanufactured items, the later core liability corresponding to a core deposit paid upon sale of a later-sold one of the remanufactured items;

            receiving an indication that a core associated with the sale of the later-sold remanufactured item has been received; and

            updating the data by applying the credit for the core associated with the sale of

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the later-sold remanufactured item against the earlier core liability, irrespective of the core deposit for the later-sold remanufactured item having been paid after the sale of
the earlier-sold remanufactured item,

wherein the core deposit for the earlier-sold remanufactured item and the core deposit for the later-sold remanufactured item are a refundable part of a total price for the remanufactured items paid to secure return of cores for remanufacture;

storing data reflecting an earlier entitlement corresponding to the earlier core liability having an amount equal to the core deposit paid with the total price of the earlier-sold core; and

canceling the earlier entitlement after return of the core associated with the later-sold remanufactured item.

25.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory device of claim 24, wherein the applied core credit is one of full credit equal to the core deposit paid upon sale of the later-sold remanufactured item, partial credit less than the core deposit paid upon sale of the later-sold remanufactured item, and zero credit.

26.   (Cancelled)

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory device of claim 24,
the method further comprising:

establishing a core liability and a corresponding attrition date for a sale of a selected one of the remanufactured items, the attrition date being after a date on which the selected remanufactured item is sold; and

eliminating the core liability for the selected remanufactured item on the attrition date when an indication is received that core has not been returned for the selected remanufactured item by the attrition date.

28.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory device of claim 27,
the method further comprising:

establishing a partial credit date associated with the sale of the selected remanufactured item, the partial credit date being after the date on which the selected remanufactured item is sold and before the attrition date; and

limiting the core liability for the selected remanufactured item to a value less than the corresponding core deposit if the core is returned on or after the partial credit date and before the attrition date.

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29.   (Previously Presented) A computer configured to implement steps in a method for remanufacturing cores into remanufactured items, the computer comprising:

means for storing data reflecting an earlier core liability and a later core liability, the earlier core liability corresponding to a core deposit paid upon sale of an earlier-sold one of the remanufactured items, the later core liability corresponding to a core deposit paid upon sale of a later-sold one of the remanufactured items;

means for receiving an indication that a core associated with the sale of the later sold remanufactured item has been received; and

means for updating the data by applying the credit for the core associated with the sale of the later-sold remanufactured item against the earlier core liability, irrespective of the core deposit for the later-sold remanufactured item having been paid after the sale of the earlier-sold remanufactured item; and

a processor for implementing at least the means for updating the data,

wherein the core deposit for the earlier-sold remanufactured item and the core deposit for the later-sold remanufactured item are a refundable part of a total price for the remanufactured items paid to secure return of cores for remanufacture.

30.   (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 29, wherein the applied core credit is one of full credit equal to the core deposit paid upon sale of the later-sold remanufactured item, partial credit less than the core deposit paid upon sale of the later-sold remanufactured item, and zero credit.

31.   (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 29, further comprising:

means for storing data reflecting an earlier entitlement corresponding to the earlier core liability having an amount equal to the core deposit paid with the total price of the earlier-sold core; and

means for canceling the earlier entitlement after return of the core associated with the later-sold remanufactured item.

32.   (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 29, further comprising:

means for establishing a core liability and a corresponding attrition date for a sale of a selected one of the remanufactured items, the attrition date being after a date on which the selected remanufactured item is sold; and

means for eliminating the core liability for the selected remanufactured item on the attrition date when an indication is received that core has not been returned for the selected remanufactured item by the attrition date.

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33.   (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 32, further comprising:

means for establishing a partial credit date associated with the sale of the
selected remanufactured item, the partial credit date being after the date on which the
selected remanufactured item is sold and before the attrition date; and

means for limiting the core liability for the selected remanufactured item to a
value less than the corresponding core deposit if the core is returned on or after the partial credit date and
before the attrition date.